

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

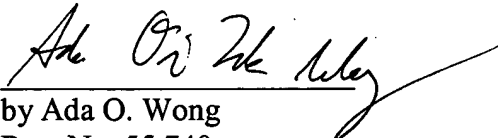
Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 10, 19, and 20 have been withdrawn in response to the Restriction Requirement. In the office action dated May 10, 2005, Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 11-18.

Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Examiner based his rejection on the disclosures of JP200-012054 (JP 054) in view of USPN 4,885,341 (Aonuma et al.), and USPN 6,517,085 (Udagawa et al.). As Examiner aptly noted in the Office Action, JP 054 does not disclose the rubber powder comprising a first rubber powder and a second rubber powder, or the rubber being applied to a rigid plate. Aonuma et al. fails to cure this deficiency in that the vulcanizate composition disclosed therein involves a composition containing a first rubber component dispersed as crosslinked rubber particles in the second rubber component, thereby changing the material property (Col. 1, lines 32-52). In the present invention, the rubber components are not chemically combined. Quite the opposite from what is disclosed in Aonuma et al., it is essential that each rubber component of the present invention maintains its property in the liquefied rubber, the advantages of which is explained in paragraphs 59 through 65 of the specification. One of the rubber components serves to improve air-tightness while the other adjusts the repulsive elastic property needed for a gasket. Aonuma et al. also lacks any teaching of mixing two kinds of rubbers *having different hardness*, which is one of the key features of the present invention. Udagawa et al., likewise, does not cure the deficiency of JP 054 and Aonuma et al. As such, Applicant believes these references do not render the present invention obvious.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application as a whole is in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections, the Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1106 in order to expedite allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,


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